A close up of a sign

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Name: Period: Date:

**What’s In A Name?**

**(A Study of Biological Prefixes and Suffixes - Etymology)**

**Introduction:** The new vocabulary words in a first-year life science class can be overwhelming. However, many of the vocabulary words contain either a prefix or a suffix that will help you understand the meaning of the word. This assignment will help to familiarize you with many of the common prefixes and suffixes used in biology. This may seem difficult at first, but once you learn these prefixes and suffixes, it will be of great benefit to you as you continue your study.

**Directions:** Examine the prefixes and suffixes in the tables below. You will use the prefixes and suffixes to answer various questions on the posted sheet found on classroom notebook. It may happen that a prefix can also be used as a suffix, and vice versa. Do not be concerned if you must use a suffix as a prefix. You will be required to keep this page for the semester as a tool to help you learn new words.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Prefix** | **Meaning** | **Prefix** | **Meaning** | **Prefix** | **Meaning** | **Suffix** | **Meaning** | **Suffix** | **Meaning** |
| A - | Without | Gastr - | Stomach | Photo - | Light | - able | Capable of | - phobic | Hate |
| Aero - | Air | Glyco - | Sugar | Pod - | Foot | - aceous | Pertaining to | - phyll | Leaf |
| Arth - | Joint | Herb - | Grass, plants | Poly - | Many | - ase | Forms names of enzymes | - phyte | Plant |
| Auto - | Self | Hetero - | Different | Proto - | First | - ation | The act of | - plasm | Material forming cells |
| Bi - | Two | Hist - | Tissue | Pseudo - | False | - carn | Meat or flesh | - plast | Organized living material |
| Bio - | Life | Homo - | Same | Sacchar - | Sugar | - cellular | Related to cells | - sis | Condition, state |
| Cephal - | Head | Hydro - | Water | Sapro - | Decay, rotten | - chem | Dealing with chemicals | - sperm | Seed |
| Chloro - | Green | In - | In | Sperm - | Seed | - chrom | Color | - stasis | A stationary condition |
| Chrom - | Color | Inter - | Between | Therm - | Heat | - cretion | Process of separating | - synthesis | To put together; to make |
| Chondr - | Cartilage | Intra - | Within | Trans - | Across | - cyte | Cell | - troph | Food |
| Cyto - | Cell | Iso - | Equal | Un - | Not | - gene | Origin or birth | - vor | Devour, eat |
| Di - | Two | Macro - | Big | Uni - | One | - gestion | To carry | - ped or – pod | Foot |
| Ecto - | Outer | Meso - | Middle | Zoo - | Related to Animals | - itis | Disease |  |  |
| Endo - | Within | Micro - | Small | Zyg - | Yoke or union | - kinesis | Movement, motion |  |  |
| Eu - | True | Mono - | One |  |  | - logy | The study of |  |  |
| Ex - | Out | Multi - | Many |  |  | - lysis | Dissolving, destruction |  |  |
| Extra - | Outside | Oo - | Egg |  |  | - ose | Sugar |  |  |
| Game - | United, sexual | Phago - | Eating |  |  | - philic | Love |  |  |